REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application, with claim 1 having been amended and claims 10 and 11 being cancelled. Support for the claim amendments can be found in Figure 4 and paragraph 30 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of claims 10 and 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taquino (US 6,695,540). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7 recites a method of manufacturing a vortex induced vibration suppression cladding section for mounting upon an elongate underwater member. The method comprises rotationally moulding an outer layer of plastics material incorporating anti-fouling material, and subsequently rotationally moulding an inner structural layer comprising plastics material within the outer layer, so that the two layers form a unitary moulding. Taquino does not teach or suggest rotational moulding to form a unitary moulding.

In relevant part, the Office Action's rejection of claim 7 based on Taquino refers to Figures 1-11 (illustrations of a method for making a vortex induced vibration suppression cladding section), part #31 (the outer surface of the vortex induced vibration suppression device), and lines 18-21 of column 5 (disclosure of the polymer containing copper nickel particulate dust to enhance antifouling capability of the strake). None of these disclosures relate to rotational moulding. Further, Taquino only makes general adjectival references to molded parts, i.e. "molded polymeric material" or "molded . . . body," without any disclosure of the process of rotational moulding. *See* col. 2, line 23; col. Taquino simply fails to disclose or suggest a method comprising rotationally moulding an outer layer of plastics material incorporating anti-fouling material and then rotationally moulding an inner structural layer comprising plastics

material within the outer layer to form a unitary moulding. Therefore, claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Taquino.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taquino in view of Blair et al. (US 6,019,549). Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and includes all of the limitations discussed above. Blair discloses a wrap panel with strakes but does not teach or suggest rotational moulding as set forth in claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons articulated above in regard to the rejection of claim 7, as well as for the additional limitations recited in claim 9.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taquino in view of Inoue (US 5,423,631). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites a vortex induced vibration suppression cladding section for mounting upon an elongate underwater member. The cladding comprises an outer layer incorporating anti-fouling material and an inner structural layer, the inner and outer layers being formed as a unitary plastics moulding. Neither Taquino nor Inoue teach or suggest a cladding with two layers formed as a unitary plastics moulding. Therefore, the combination of these two references would not render the claimed invention obvious.

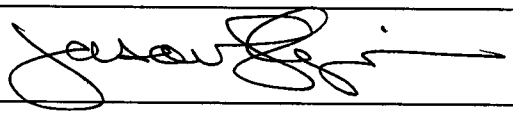
The Office Action concedes that "Taquino . . . discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of an outer layer incorporating antifouling material" and relies on Inoue's disclosure of an antifouling structure. Office Action p. 4-5. However, Figures 1 and 2 of Inoue, which are cited in the Office Action, do not disclose a unitary plastics moulding with an outer layer incorporating antifouling material and an inner structural layer. Rather, Figure 1 depicts an antifouling structure with two non-plastics layers and Figure 2 depicts that antifouling structure bonded to the inner wall of a water intake pipe. Col. 2, lines 35-40. The first layer of the antifouling structure is "a thin sheet form of copper alloy layer." The second layer of the antifouling structure is an insulating material layer, i.e. rubber, which is "coated on the required surface area of the beryllium alloy layer 1, and dried to obtain an insulating material layer." Col. 6, lines 24-42. The copper alloy layer and the rubber layer as disclosed in Inoue do not form a unitary plastic moulding with an outer layer incorporating anti-fouling material and an inner structural layer. Thus, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 5, and 6 of the present application recites subject matter that is not disclosed in or suggested by Taquino in view of Inoue.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taquino in view of Inoue, and further in view of Blair et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3 and 4, which depends from claim 1, for the same reason articulated above in response to the claim 1 rejection and in light of Blair's similar lack of disclosure of a unitary plastic moulding with an outer layer incorporating anti-fouling material and an inner structural layer.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,</td></tr>
<tr><td>NAME AND REG. NUMBER</td><td colspan="5">Jason M. Shapiro
Registration No.: 35,354</td></tr>
<tr><td>SIGNATURE</td><td colspan="5">  </td></tr>
<tr><td>Address</td><td colspan="5">ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.</td></tr>
<tr><td>City</td><td>Washington</td><td>State</td><td>D.C.</td><td>Zip Code</td><td>20005</td></tr>
<tr><td>Country</td><td>U.S.A.</td><td>Telephone</td><td>202-783-6040</td><td>Fax</td><td>202-783-6031</td></tr>
</table>